

Concept Paper



*Star of the Northwest -
A Statewide Residential Magnet School
For Grades 11-14
Located in Kotzebue, Alaska*

September 2007

Introduction

Northwest Arctic Borough School District (NWABSD) is currently developing a plan to establish a statewide residential magnet school serving 100 students that is focused on careers in mining, teaching, and healthcare. The program will combine the resources of Kotzebue High School, the Alaska Technical Center, and Chukchi College and offer a high school diploma, and up to two years of college and technical education leading to career/industry certification, and entry-level technical skills.

Overview

This program is unique for several reasons. First, there is currently no other magnet school in Alaska for 11th and 12th grade, and post-secondary students. Second, There is a high- and long-lasting demand for employees in these well paying career fields located across our state. Third, Kotzebue as the regional and cultural hub of northwest Alaska with a world-class mine, modern hospital, statewide technical center, and large rural high school has the infrastructure, capacity, and capability to deliver quality programs in these three program areas and to meet the social needs of additional youth in the community.

Rationale

The current system of small high schools in rural Alaska fails to meet the needs of too many students, families, and communities. There is a definite need for a grade 11-14 secondary-postsecondary program that specializes in preparing students for long-term high paying careers. Kotzebue with its well-developed infrastructure is uniquely positioned to fill that need.

Facility Needs

The magnet school program will require capital construction of a 100-student dormitory for high school students and additional housing facilities and classroom space at the Alaska Technical Center. Construction costs are estimated at 35 to 40 million dollars.

Project Activities and Timeline

The district proposes to develop the program plan of service, obtain industry support, obtain construction funding, secure land for additional facilities, and begin preliminary design during the fall, winter, and spring of 2008-2009. Facility construction is projected to begin in fall 2009 and be completed in August 2010.

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